Course Description

This gateway course has four major parts:

1. Career exploration and preparation;
2. Professional reading, writing and research in Psychology;
3. Exploration of the major philosophical and methodological alternatives to psychology as a natural science;
4. Composition of a research proposal for your senior project.

This course will serve as preparation for more advanced study in the Psychology major and is ideally taken during Freshman or Sophomore year.

Course Objectives

Students will:
- obtain greater knowledge of self, personal and professional values, and “callings” in life.
- gain a firmer sense of career direction in Psychology
- take concrete steps in preparing for a career in Psychology
- learn the central methods of research in Psychology
- appreciate what is distinct about doing Psychology as a “human” science
- construct a proposal for the senior research project

Learning Outcomes

You will:
- learn the major career areas in Psychology
- articulate a career vision
- learn the elements of and prepare a professional resume
- articulate a further plan of study and a career development plan
- learn APA format and relevant psychology databases for research
- learn the variety of research methods routinely used in Psychology
- learn how to read, analyze, and critique empirical and theoretical work in Psychology
- gain mastery of the history and theoretical underpinnings of psychology as a “human” science
- formulate a senior research proposal based upon career vision and plan of study

Text

We will be reading one bound text: The Psychology Major (5th) by R. Eric Landrum & Stephen Davis. You will need to purchase it. We will also be using several online resources. I think that the material is readable, but some of the terms and concepts might be confusing to you at first. Don’t worry! This is your class, so please don’t hesitate to ask for clarification about anything. The only stupid question is a question not asked.
Course Format and Your Role

This course is 100% online. I am here though working with you and available to you. I am not a machine! Please see the Common Language for Course Syllabi for official information on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy. Note that I will enforce this policy.

Communication Rules

Network Etiquette - Communication in an online class takes special consideration. Please read the short list of tips below.

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- Don't use all caps. It is the equivalent of screaming.
- Don't flame - These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back!
- Don't use offensive language.
- Use clear subject lines.
- Don't use abbreviations or acronyms unless the entire class knows them.
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.
- Keep the dialog collegial and professional.

Expected Response times

Students can expect me to be online at least once per day M-F. I will also check in at least once during the weekend. Homework assignments will be graded within 5 days of the due date. I will make every attempt to return major assignments within 7-10 days, but the amount of feedback required may extend that time.

Grading and Criteria

Grading structure and point scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100 points</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 points – 89 points</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 points – 79 points</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 points - 69 points</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 60 points</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
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**Requirements & Assignments**

Your grade will be based upon your performance on several assignments. I will discuss your assignments with you in much greater detail over the course of the semester. ALL written work submitted to me should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and in 12-point font.

Here is the breakdown of your grade out of 100 points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>1 point</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personality Statement</td>
<td>3 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Vision Statement</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume Assignment</td>
<td>8 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Question</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft #1 Senior Project</td>
<td>12 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft #2 Senior Project</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Exploration (14 quizzes) and Reflection</td>
<td>14 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Proposal</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan of Study</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (5/2/18)</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I will not accept late work. I will only make an accommodation in the case of a documented medical emergency in which YOU are the person who had the medical emergency.**

Plagiarism is when you take personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. You must clearly and accurately credit sources you use in written work for all class assignments. If you have been found to plagiarize, you will automatically fail the course and be reported to the administration for disciplinary action.

Papers will be graded according to the following criteria: a) degree of understanding of relevant concepts, b) adequacy of planning; c) comprehensiveness of supplementary research, d) clarity of expression.

If you miss your final exam, and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678)839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.

**Special Needs**

If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation from me, please let me know at the beginning of the semester.
**Class Schedule**

Module 1: Course Overview; What is Human Science? Myers-Briggs Type Indicator; **Assignment: Typed Personality Statement; Syllabus Quiz**

Module 2: Careers in Psychology; **Assignment: Career Vision Assignment**

Module 3: Resume; Graduate School; **Assignment: Resume Assignment**

Module 4: Writing Papers in Psychology; Research Methods; Job Search Strategies; **Assignment: Research Question Due**

Module 5: Library Databases and Getting sources

Module 6: APA Format; Careers in Psychology; Research Methods/ **Assignment: DRAFT #1 DUE**

Module 7: Careers in Psychology; Research Methods; APA Format

Module 8: **Mid-Term Exam**

Module 9: Careers in Psychology; Research Methods; How to Write a Research Proposal; Resume Redux: The Career Profile

Module 10: Careers in Psychology; Research Methods; **Assignment: DRAFT # 2 DUE**

Module 11: Theories in Psychology

Module 12: Careers in Psychology; Revisions to Draft 2; Meet the Faculty

Module 13: **Assignment: Final Draft Senior Research Proposal Due**

Module 14: Theories in Psychology

Module 15: Course summary and review for exam; **Assignment: Career Reflection and Plan of Study due**

Final exam: May 2-May 4